

Bagnall Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting Tuesday 10 June 2008 Moorlands Village Hall, Bagnall

Present

Cllr Dave Pearson (Chair) Cllr Peter Adams
Cllr Frank Hayes Cllr Peter Lawley
Cllr Sybil Ralphs Cllr Ken Simpson

In Attendance: Denise Cooper (Minute Clerk)
1 Members of the public

08.51 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

08.52 **Minutes of Meeting held on 13 May 2008**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted as a true and accurate record.

08.53 **Matters Arising not on agenda**

08.53 – Casual Vacancy

Following the recent resignation of Roy Hewson, the Parish Council has a vacancy. An expression of interest has been submitted by Andrew Batson and Cllrs agreed that the skills depicted within his CV fully meet their requirements. Notices have now been put in the Notice Board and once all due processes have been completed an appointment will be made.

08.44 – Bagnall Heights

The parish Council will write to the Manager of Bagnall Heights and Staffordshire County Council Highways Department to seek an explanation for the removal of the bus shelter and the way forward regarding its replacement on a like for like basis.

08.54 **Finance issues**

Renewal of the Clerk's membership with the Society of Local Council Clerks at a cost of £43.00. This was agreed.

Mrs D Cooper presented for fees for the month of June in the sum of £50.00. Payment was agreed.

An invoice was presented for £82.25 for parts to repair the seats. Payment was agreed.

An invoice from Forresters for the internal audit process in the sum of £110. Payment was agreed.

Jackson's Nurseries presented their invoices for grounds maintenance for the months of April and May in the sum of £820.76. Payment was agreed.

08.55 **Planning Applications**

Full permission for development has been received for

- Land off Clewlovs Bank, Bagnall
Erection of stable block, creation of horse exercise area and turning facility
- Land at Old Mill Lane, Bagnall
Erection of stable block

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

08.56 Footpaths, Highways and Maintenance issues

08.24(i) – Seats within the village

Appropriate repairs have now been effected on the seats within the parish. Cllr Lawley was thanks for his efforts in this regard.

08.47(ii) – Footways in The Green, Bagnall

On our behalf Cllr Ralphs has taken this issue up with the County Council who confirmed that the work is included within their five-year plan. Pressure will continue to be exerted to ensure this matter is dealt with as quickly as possible, and hopefully within the next twelve months.

08.56 – Lengthsman’s Agreement

Concerns were expressed on the cutting of the greens and that vegetation around the seats was not being cut back. Cllr Simpson will follow up.

08.57 Environmental Issues

There were no environmental issues raised.

08.59 Correspondence

- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Notification that the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 came into force on 8 May 2008.
- Staffordshire Moorlands Community and Voluntary Services – Notification of the new LEADER funding programme being delivered by Advantage West Midlands and that a local workshop has been arranged for Tuesday 24 June 2008 at Endon Methodist Chapel, Endon to consult with communities
- Stoke on Trent City Council – Notification of the adoption of the Affordable Housing Strategy
- East / West Redevelopment – invitation to view the proposals for the redevelopment of the East West Centre in Hanley
- Mencap – Request for donation.

08.59 Any Other Business

- Cllr Hayes asked that a representative from Cheddleton Parish Council attend the next meeting to provide a 10-15 minutes presentation on their innovative plan to establish a burial ground for the parish. This was agreed.
- Cllr Hayes raised the issues reported in the national papers regarding the re-evaluation of the council tax. Cllr Ralphs agreed to expand upon this issue at the next meeting.
- Cllr Lawley gave an overview of the Parish Assembly. Presentations were given around the Post Office closures and the enhanced Lengthsman’s Scheme currently being piloted. It was agreed to invite Mr David Walters to the September meeting to elaborate on this further.
- Cllr Adams requested that the telephone box and red pillar box be included on the listed building registered to ensure they remain in the parish. Cllr Ralphs will follow up.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed(Chairman)

Date: 8 July 2008
DB 11 June 2008

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Cllr Frank Hayes
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In Attendance:

Denise Cooper (Minute Clerk)

08.60 Closed Agenda Items

▪ Bus Shelter opposite Bagnall Heights

Cllr Pearson advised the council that a series of emails had passed between Cllr Christina Jebb and himself concerning the bus shelter opposite Bagnall Heights. As part of this exchange Andy Mason, Senior Project Engineer at Staffordshire County Council reported to Christina Jebb the following:

“As you are aware this scheme is driven by the development at Bagnall Heights and the contractor carrying out the works is employed by the developer; as such we are only carrying out a supervising role to ensure the works are to an acceptable standard.

As part of the installation of a new footway, the contract drawings show a requirement for the existing bus stop to be upgraded with Kassel kerbs and block paving, which required the existing wooden shelter to be removed and re-erected to (a) allow the laying of the block paving, and (b) to ensure that the correct height clearance was achieved on completion.

The shelter was therefore carefully taken down by the developer's contractor with a view to re-erection. During this operation it became apparent that the lower sections of the shelter were rotten and parts of the shelter disintegrated as they were removed. In fact some of the sections were buried in the surrounding ground. Some pieces of the rotten structure are still visible on site.

It is assumed that the existing shelter was provided by the Parish Council and therefore the maintenance of this structure would also have been the responsibility of the Parish Council; this responsibility would also extend to its replacement should this be necessary at any time.

I would suggest that the state of this shelter was such that replacement in the very near future would have been necessary and that the works currently being carried out have only brought forward the date of this replacement.

In this case it is regrettable that the Parish Council was not involved in the contractor's decision to dispose of the shelter but this was made as the structure was removed. The decision was made on the grounds of safety in that the shelter could not be re-erected in a safe manner.”

Cllr Pearson expressed his concerns to Cllr Jebb that the Parish Council was not consulted about the removal of the shelter.

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After full discuss, it was the unanimous view of councilors that this removal was seen as theft. The shelter is a parish asset and was removed without the knowledge or consent of the Parish Council.

In the first instance it was agreed to write to the contractors employers to ascertain what has happened to the bus shelter and ask for their assurance that it will be re-instated on a like for like basis.

The Clerk was asked to notify the insurers.

▪ **Playing Fields**

Cllr Pearson advised that he had been approach by a representative from the Village Hall Committee who asked if he could attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the possible purchase of the playing fields to secure its use for future generations.

It was agreed that Mr Maslen could attend, with a view to establishing a working group, made up of three representatives from the Village Hall Committee and three from the Parish Council, to explore the detail around this proposal.